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**FEDERAL JURY FINDS A ROANE COUNTY MAN GUILTY FOR HIS ROLE IN A  
COUNTERFEIT MONEY SCHEME**

Charleston, W.Va. – A federal jury sitting in Charleston today convicted a Roane County man for his role in a counterfeit money scheme. After three days of trial, the jury found that Roger L. Atkinson II, 36, of Spencer, West Virginia, knowingly conspired to possess, manufacture and pass counterfeited currency near Spencer, West Virginia.

Evidence at trial revealed that Atkinson, while at the Spencer Livestock Market in Roane County, gave a counterfeit \$50 bill to an associate. Further evidence at trial alleged that Atkinson was involved in a counterfeiting scheme that spread fake bills through Spencer and elsewhere partly in an effort to support their drug habits. The jury returned guilty verdicts on two counts of the indictment finding that Atkinson conspired with another individual, Lawrence E. Holbrook, to manufacture and pass counterfeit money, and that Atkinson did in fact pass a counterfeit \$50 bill.

Holbrook previously pleaded guilty for his role in the counterfeit scheme. Both defendants are scheduled to be sentenced on May 4, 2011.

This case is part of the ongoing efforts of United States Attorney's Office to prosecute crimes against small businesses. In September 2010, U.S. Attorney Booth Goodwin created and launched a comprehensive plan to protect small businesses and nonprofit agencies from fraud and abuse. Goodwin has redoubled efforts to identify, investigate and aggressively prosecute dishonest employees and other criminals who defraud or embezzle from small businesses, thereby potentially leaving the business financially vulnerable.

The Crimes Against Small Business Initiative strives to protect businesses and nonprofit organizations by working in partnership with the business community, along with state and local law enforcement officials, to ensure that occurrences of fraud, embezzlement, scams and other crimes targeting small businesses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The United States Secret Service was in charge of the investigation. Assistant United States Attorneys Thomas Ryan and Steve Ruby were in charge of the prosecution.

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